

Under his leadership, 13 of 14 of the radiomen who took the exam for the next rate had the highest scores in the fleet, and they received a nearly flawless inspection. He is extremely proud of the work that he did for the Navy, and he had expected to receive a commendation, as well as a Radioman First Class rating for his work. Unfortunately, he ended up receiving an honorable discharge and never received the honors that he had earned.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Dr. Ed Golden for his commendable service to the United States Navy. He poured his time, skill and heart into building a program that would serve his division well, and he deserves our gratitude. I also ask that you join me in recognizing the lifetime of service that he has demonstrated throughout his career. It is an honor to serve a man like Ed Golden in Congress, and I know his colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly unable to make votes on April 16, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote Nos. 152 and 153.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET RESOLUTION

#### HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2012, less than a year after a similar proposal was defeated, the House Republican leadership held a vote on H. Con. Res. 112—The Republican Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Resolution. This budget proposal sets the wrong priorities for my home state of Rhode Island and the nation as a whole—extending tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, making deep cuts to programs that serve middle class families, and ending the Medicare guarantee for our seniors.

As the Congressman representing Rhode Island's First District, I have listened to families across my district who are tired of the same old political games that got our country into this mess to begin with. They know that Washington should put politics aside and work on policies that will create jobs, support the middle class, and put the economy back on the right track. Yet, the budget proposed by Representative PAUL RYAN (R-WI), and approved 228–191 by the House of Representatives, would not only fail to create jobs, it would also give the wealthiest Americans an average tax cut of \$150,000, cut education and job training programs by a total of \$166 billion over the next ten years, slash transportation and infrastructure investments by at least twenty-five percent over 10 years, and reduce investments in science, research, and

technology by more than \$100 billion over a decade.

With so many Americans out of work, it's hard to believe that the House Republican leadership would ask members to support a budget proposal that would seriously undermine key investments that are so important to creating jobs. Rather than trying to pass another tax giveaway for the richest among us, House Republicans should join with Democrats and enact public policies that will actually benefit our seniors, and middle class and working families. Instead the Republican budget proposal will undermine our economic recovery, and replace the current health care system for our seniors with a voucher program that could allow Medicare to wither on the vine, create higher costs, and reduce the overall quality of health care services.

That is why I supported an alternative budget proposal introduced by Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN (D-MD) that would have preserved the Medicare guarantee, permanently extended middle class tax cuts, and maintained vital investments in transportation jobs, manufacturing, and education—while also reducing the deficit through policies that balance spending cuts and increased revenue. This proposal stood in stark contrast to the Republican plan—and closely aligned with the priorities shared by many Rhode Islanders.

On March 28, 2012, I spoke out against the Republican proposal on the House floor, and the following day I joined all of my Democratic colleagues and 10 Republicans in voting against this bill. With virtually no chance that this radical legislation will ever pass in the Senate, it is unfortunate that some in Washington have once again chosen political posturing over pragmatism.

All of us in Congress need to help reignite the American dream and build ladders of opportunity for anyone willing to work hard, take responsibility, and play by the rules. There were alternative budget proposals presented in the House of Representatives during debate, including options offered by the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Both initiatives were superior to Representative Ryan's Republican budget document, and included provisions that would preserve the Medicare guarantee, eliminate tax subsidies for big oil companies and loopholes that encourage corporations to ship jobs overseas, and maintain vital investments in education, job creating initiatives, manufacturing, and capital access for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Ultimately, while I support a number of the proposals offered in both the CPC and CBC budget alternatives, I believed the Van Hollen proposal aligned most closely with priorities shared by many Rhode Islanders—including a permanent extension of the 2001–2003 tax cuts for the middle class. In addition, unlike both the CPC and CBC proposal, Representative VAN HOLLEN's Democratic alternative adhered to the discretionary spending levels set in the Budget Control Act of 2011—an agreement that represented a bipartisan, bicameral compromise. In order to prevent a first ever default on our nation's obligations, and to avoid the very real potential of an economic catastrophe, I voted in favor of the Budget Control Act on August 8, 2011. To be clear, there was a lot about this compromise legislation that I did not like, but my prerequisite for voting in favor of the bill was that

we avoid a default and we protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid beneficiaries, which this bill did. Just as I could not support Representative Ryan's proposal to walk away from this compromise legislation and make further, dramatic reductions to discretionary spending below the caps set by the Budget Control Act, I also could not support alternatives that did not adhere to the bipartisan, bicameral compromise we agreed to less than one year ago.

There were other proposals, including one offered by Congressmen JIM COOPER (D-TN) and STEVEN LATOURETTE (R-OH) purportedly modeled after recommendations of the Simpson-Bowles Commission (so named after the co-chairs of President Obama's Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform—former White House Chief of Staff under President Clinton, Erskine Bowles, and former Republican Senator Alan Simpson). The Simpson-Bowles Commission clearly depicted the unsustainable nature of our country's deficit and debt, and delineated a number of policies for serious debate in order to improve our nation's fiscal trajectory. However, the budget proposal offered by Representatives COOPER and LATOURETTE contained provisions that I believe set the wrong priorities. For example, the Cooper-LaTourette plan contained \$1 trillion less in revenue increases as compared to the Simpson-Bowles Commission recommendations—further eroding the balance between revenue increases and spending reductions needed to achieve deficit reduction that does not fall disproportionately on the backs of the middle class and working families. In addition, the Cooper-LaTourette plan includes \$100 billion more in discretionary program reductions than recommended by the Simpson-Bowles report, further distorting the ratio between revenue raisers and spending cuts. Furthermore, the Cooper-LaTourette proposal calls for a shift in corporate tax policy that the Treasury Department has argued would increase incentives for corporations to shift investment and jobs overseas. Lastly, the proposal from Congressman COOPER and LATOURETTE, like the Simpson-Bowles plan, would undermine the benefits and guarantees of Social Security and Medicare.

Ultimately, with so many Rhode Islanders struggling to find work, our fragile economic recovery in the balance, and our seniors in need a strong voice to protect the benefits they earned and deserve, I supported an alternative budget proposal that would have preserved the Medicare guarantee, permanently extended middle class tax cuts, and maintained vital investments in transportation jobs, manufacturing, and education—while also reducing the deficit through policies that balance spending cuts and increased revenue. My constituents in Rhode Island's First Congressional District, and the American people as a whole, deserve nothing less.

#### INTRODUCING THE WOMEN'S OPTION TO RAISE KIDS (WORK) ACT

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation that will recognize the

hard work that all mothers engage in each day.

In the past week, presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney has said that he believes “all moms are working moms.” I agree. Unfortunately, if you are a low-income mother, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program punishes you if you decide to stay home to care for your young child. Our laws should reflect the value of care giving work done by all mothers.

Current law does not count low-income stay-at-home parents who are raising young children as meeting the necessary Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work requirement. Current law also bans States from counting these individuals toward that State’s work participation rate, which can result in financial penalties if not met. This effectively bars low-income parents who choose to stay home to raise their young children from access to the financial support of TANF.

The WORK Act would recognize that raising children is, in fact, work. The legislation would amend current TANF law to provide States the option to maintain a safety net for poor parents. Low-income parents could receive job training or search for work, or they could raise their children until they are school-aged without fear of being pushed deeper into poverty. This is the same option that wealthy families enjoy.

I urge all of my colleagues to show that they understand the importance of all mothers and the care they provide by supporting the WORK Act.

TRIBUTE TO ATMORE MAYOR  
HOWARD SHELL

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of South Alabama’s senior statesmen. This fall, Atmore Mayor Howard Shell will officially retire from office, leaving a legacy of 22 years of dedicated service to his community.

A four-year Navy veteran of the Korean War, and a retired research and development employee for Monsanto Corporation, Howard Shell first entered politics in 1984, winning an Atmore city council seat. After holding the post for just two years, he was appointed to serve out the remaining two years of the late Mayor Patricia McKenzie’s term of office in 1986.

Mayor Shell’s characteristic strong leadership was a natural fit as the city’s chief executive. Consequently, he threw his hat into the ring, serving two consecutive terms as Atmore’s duly-elected mayor from 1988 to 1996. In 2000, he reentered the mayor’s race, returning to serve three more consecutive terms as Atmore’s top office holder.

With more than two decades of his life invested in leading the city he loves, Mayor Shell has made a difference in the lives of the citizens of Atmore. He has presided over local economic growth and, more recently, has led efforts to extend the city’s revenue base through new industrial and commercial recruitment along Interstate 65.

A dedicated and visionary leader, Mayor Shell has not only been Atmore’s strongest

advocate but also an active civic leader on regional, state and national levels. He has served on the National League of Cities’ Economic Development Board, as well as the Alabama League of Municipalities, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors, and the Jefferson Davis Community College Board of Advisors.

As he prepares to leave public office, I join with all the people of South Alabama in extending our heartfelt thanks for a job well done, as well as our very best wishes for all future endeavors. May he and his lovely wife, Nannette, find ample time to enjoy their two children, five grandchildren and great grandson as they open another rewarding chapter in their already rich lives.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRAPEVINE-COLLEYVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the consolidation of the Grapevine and Colleyville school communities into Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District (GCISD). This outstanding school district has excelled in educating thousands of students and has prepared them with the necessary skills to live a successful, happy, and meaningful life.

GCISD is a K–12 public school system located in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The 54.1-square mile district consists of 17 traditional schools and two alternative campuses serving approximately 13,400 students and 1,750 employees.

GCISD has been rated a Recognized school district for 2010 under the Texas accountability system. In addition, nine GCISD schools achieved the State’s highest rating of Exemplary. For the ninth consecutive year, GCISD received a rating of “Superior Achievement” under Texas’ Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) financial accountability rating system. The Superior Achievement rating is the State’s highest, demonstrating the quality of the District’s financial management and reporting system.

As of today, the average GCISD population of 13,400 students annually accomplishes a 95% graduation rate with 80% of those students enrolling in post-secondary studies. The students’ success is credited to the outstanding and experienced teachers and administration staff as well as an involved and supportive community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District on its 50th Anniversary. I am extremely proud to represent the cities of Grapevine and Colleyville, and I am grateful for the school district’s exceptional and enduring commitment to educating our youth.

CONGRATULATING MRS. SUSAN AND MR. STANLEY KRAMER ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I offer my highest congratulations today to Mrs. Susan and Mr. Stanley Kramer on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Married June 10, 1962, Susan and Stanley have raised three wonderful sons, including my good friend Doug Kramer. Meeting in the summer of 1959 in Monterey Park, California, they quickly began dating and stayed together during Susan’s return to New York to attend Brooklyn College and Stanley’s enlistment and service in the Naval Reserve.

On June 10, 2012, they will have stood by each other and at the head of a rapidly growing family for half of a century. The world today is a very different place than it was in June 1962, but the love between these two people is unchanged. They are a shining example to all of us and I hope you will all join me in offering them congratulations and wishing them many more years of happiness.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY STAFF SGT.  
CHRISTOPHER BROWN

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Brown, 26, who lost his life on April 3, 2012, while defending our country. We are grateful for his service and we will always remember his sacrifice for our freedom.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Staff Sgt. Brown was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. On March 20, he was stationed in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Staff Sgt. Brown succumbed to injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol in Kunar Province.

Staff Sgt. Brown was on his third combat assignment since he enlisted in the Army in 2003. His previous service included a tour in Iraq from August 2004 to July 2005 and a prior tour in Afghanistan from June 2009 to May 2010.

Staff Sgt. Brown was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medal.

Staff Sgt. Brown was a devoted soldier who loved his country and his loss is shared by all our community.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful nation, I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Ariell Taylor-Brown, and their daughters, Charlie and Dilyn of Mobile, their unborn son, Carter Christopher, and their extended family.

You are all in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time.